

## CLAIM(S)

1. Snaffle bit (1) for horses or mules, consisting of a mouthpiece (2), which can be placed between the upper and lower jaws and extends crosswise through the mouth, which mouthpiece has a through-opening (7) at each of its two ends projecting out from the sides of the mouth, each opening carrying a ring (3) for the attachment of a rein or a line, etc., characterized in that the mouthpiece (2) is designed with the shape of an outward-curved or outward-angled bow.

2. Snaffle bit according to Claim 1, characterized in that the bow shape extends across the tongue (15) and lower jaw (14).

3. Snaffle bit according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterized in that the bow shape of the mouthpiece (2) is located on a plane extending approximately perpendicular to the through-openings (7).

4. Snaffle bit according to one of Claims 1-3, characterized in that the mouthpiece (2) consists of several parts.

5. Snaffle bit according to Claim 4, characterized in that the mouthpiece (2) consists of two side parts (5, 6), which are connected by a joint (4), which can pivot around an axis approximately perpendicular to the plane.

6. Snaffle bit according to one of Claims 3-5, characterized in that the joint (4) is located approximately in the center of the mouthpiece (2).

7. Snaffle bit according to Claim 5 or Claim 6,

characterized in that a pin (13) passes through the ends of the side parts (5, 6) which form the joint (4), the pin being held in place in the end of the one of the two side parts (5, 6) which forms the joint fork (11).

8. Snaffle bit according to one of Claims 1-7, characterized in that the cross section of the mouthpiece (2) is approximately circular and/or elliptical.

9. Snaffle bit according to one of Claims 1-8, characterized in that the mouthpiece (2) is made of a nonoxidizing material such as steel.

10. Snaffle bit according to one of Claims 1-9, characterized in that pivot bearing sockets (8), which project out from at least one side of the through-openings (7) and which represent extensions of these openings, are provided on the free ends of the mouthpiece (2), perpendicular to or at an angle of  $< 90^\circ$  to the plane formed by the bow shape.